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8 May 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Public Statement by the DCI re "The Bay of Pigs"

1. After approval by the President and the Attorney General, recommend the Director issue a formal statement to the Press as follows:

"Published reports that officials of the Central Intelligence Agency misled or deceived President Kennedy in any phase of the Bay of Pigs project are false.

"Reports that an official of CIA told Cubans who formed the invasion Brigade that the invasion would continue even though 'forces in the Administration' ordered it stopped, are false.

"Rumors that Attorney General Robert Kennedy sponsored a book, 'The Bay of Pigs', that contains such charges are false. Mr. Kennedy did not sponsor the book. He and I and others who knew of the bravery of the Cuban authors were proud of their successful efforts to withstand imprisonment in Cuba but I cannot remain silent to the inaccurate and most serious charges contained in their book. President Kennedy's place in American and World history is assured; he needs no false claims.

"President Kennedy accepted full responsibility for the Bay of Pigs action.

"There are many false rumors in circulation about the CIA, increased in number recently and more and more irresponsible in this election year. For that reason I am making an exception to CIA policy not to comment upon anything said or published regarding its activities, whether the reports are true or false, favorable or unfavorable.

"The Central Intelligence Agency is not a free-wheeling organization. It operates under the direction of the National Security Council of which the President of the United States is chairman. It reports to CIA subcommittees of the Congress. The President has a Board of Consultants, headed by Mr. Clark Clifford, that checks its activities. It conforms to national policies as enunciated by the President and the Secretary of State. Its Director is the principal foreign intelligence adviser to the President. He coordinates all the foreign intelligence activities of the U.S. Government

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and chairs the United States Intelligence Board as the President's representative and not as the CIA representative.

"The CIA has not made national policy, is not now making national policy, and will not make national policy.

"JOHN A. MCCONE
Director of
Central Intelligence"

[redacted] STAT
Consultant

cc: DDCI
EXDIR
Mr. Chrétien

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